

"Bio-Sects" Under the Guise of Ecology

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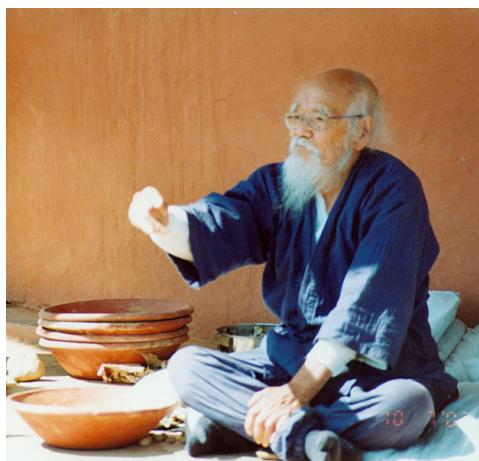
1. Introduction

When God placed man in Paradise, He commanded him to cultivate and protect the environment. "And the Lord God took the man whom he had begotten, and set him in the garden of Eden to work and keep it." Who could be against environmental protection and ecological sensitivity when it is indeed ecological sensitivity? Who could deny the simple, the natural, the ecological? But what intelligent person could accept confused philosophies clothed in the cloak of "natural, biological, ecological"?

2. The evolution of agriculture

The cultivation of the earth is also a work blessed by God when it is done properly, correctly and without metaphysical implications. In recent years, we have observed a mutation in agriculture. At the beginning of the 20th century, "the development of various alternative agricultural production methods"[1] began. Ecological agriculture appeared then, which evolved in 3 main directions[2] :

- a. "**organic**" agriculture developed in England by Sir Howard
- b. "**biological**" agriculture was developed in Switzerland by Hans Rusch and H. Muller and
- c. "**biodynamic**" agriculture appeared in Germany with the impulse and principles of the occultist Rudolf Steiner, the founder of anthroposophy.



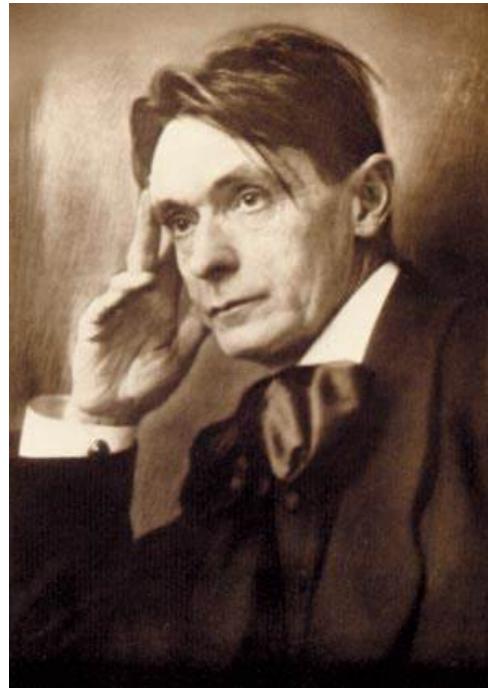
At the same time, "**natural**" agriculture, the method developed by the Japanese Masanobu Fukuoka[3], was also introduced, which is nothing more than "a Buddhist way of cultivation that derives from the philosophy of 'nothing' and returns to a natural state of 'non-action'"[4]. The teachings of the Buddhist teacher Fukuoka have been described as "a spiritual guide that uses cultivation (or gardening or farming) as a path that can lead to enlightenment." [5] That is, farming, in this system, becomes a spiritual path and

the cultivator is taught that he must become "one" with nature by identifying with the crops and eliminating his "ego."^[6]

3. Biodynamic agriculture and its course

Biodynamic farming began with an agricultural seminar given by Rudolf Steiner in 1924.

According to Steiner's occult teachings, based on the biodynamic approach, 'the farm is considered living organism and the farmer-producer is the soul of the farm who recycles the organic materials and harmonizes the parts with the whole. He seeks as much autonomy and vitality as possible in all the individual parts. The plant is regarded as a dipole between heaven and earth and is influenced both by the earth and the whole universe and cannot be considered in isolation from the whole.'^[7] "All possible correlations in nature are taken into account, even those not studied by biology and the usual natural sciences in general, e.g. **influences from the Universe** and psychic-spiritual influences" ^[8] Biodynamic agriculture 'also takes into account cosmic factors, e.g. phases of the moon, planetary influences, etc.'^[9]. In contrast to so-called "conventional agriculture," "biodynamic agriculture uses not only natural materials, but also unseen forces of the Earth and the Universe"^[10] -we are thus dealing with a **"universal" agriculture**, where "universal" energies and forces are at work - with the aim, as they claim, "to sanitize Earth, planet Earth, and man."^[11]



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Steiner "believed that the soil contains the essence of life and must be treated with various preparations to enrich its vital force."^[12] Thus, in addition to conforming to "planetary rhythms, cosmic forces and astrological cycles," "**homeopathic sprays** are used to prevent disease so that the rhythms of nature are **coordinated** with those of plants and the earth. Biodynamic preparations are added to the pile of natural fertilizer so that the digestion is directed in a way favourable to the crop."^[13] It should be noted here that biodynamic products abroad bear the **Demeter** mark along with the label "organic farming product." Demeter International is a certification body for biodynamic agricultural products. In fact, in November 2007, the "Association for the Promotion of

Biodynamic Agriculture for the Production of Quality Demeter Products" was founded in Greece.[14]



Greece also has a "group of friends of biodynamic and homeodynamic agriculture." **Homeodynamic agriculture**, developed by Enzo Nastati and promoted by the Italian institute Eureka, is a development of biodynamics, which consists of "a more complete and valid application of homeopathy to plants and agriculture." [15] The group of "friends of biodynamic and homeodynamic agriculture" organizes seminars on biodynamic and homeodynamic agriculture/vineyards/beekeeping, seminars on the correlation of plants with planets, anthroposophical painting and "inner reading of the Gospels." All of these are also advertised by "Agricultural Extension Offices." Members of the group give talks on this subject throughout Greece and write books for the Pedagogical Institute. These alternative agriculture methods are also taught in various alternative studies schools. In December 2007, a seminar was organized by the 'Association for Biodynamic Agriculture and Demeter Quality' in Halandri, Attica, on 'Introduction to Anthroposophy and Biodynamic Agriculture.'

4. Anthroposophy and its applications

Anthroposophy, the basis of biodynamic agriculture, is a philosophy described as **incompatible with orthodox faith and life**[16]. Indeed, anthroposophy, founded by Steiner in 1912-1913, is a distinctly anti-Christian movement. The basic belief of anthroposophy or "spiritual science" - as it otherwise describes itself - is that there is no personal God but an impersonal spirit. The movement interprets the Bible occultly and preaches that the era of "external Christianity" is over and that we must move into the era of "internal Christianity" as taught by anthroposophy.[17] For anthroposophists, man consists of 3 non-material bodies: the etheric body, the astral body and the "I" or spiritual body. In short, Steiner's views are defined as "a form of neo-paganism with occult and Eastern religious influences embedded in an intellectual system that emphasizes aesthetics and creativity." [18]

Anthroposophy has many practical applications today:

- A. in pedagogy (**Steiner or Waldorf schools**)
- B. in "therapeutic" pedagogy for children and adults with special needs (e.g. the **Camphill community**[19]). Also, in Greece, the "**Hestia Agios Nikolaos**" for the mentally handicapped, in Galaxidi, claims that its model of operation "is similar to that of the Camphill Communities."^[20] The "**Hestia Agios Nikolaos**" uses "therapeutic" painting and "biorhythmic massage" [21], which is an anthroposophical practice developed by Steiner's collaborator Ita Wegman in the 1920s^[22]. There are also elements of anthroposophy in the neurofunctional reorganization method of **Padovan**).
- C. in art ("therapeutic" or anthroposophical painting, sculpture, theatre)
- D. in agriculture (biodynamic agriculture)
- E. in medicine and pharmacology (anthroposophical "medicine," anthroposophical drugs). An illustrative example is perhaps the Weleda company, which, as we read on its website, "was founded in Switzerland in 1921 by Ita Wegman and Rudolf Steiner"^[23]. Its products (medicines, child protection products, body care products, etc.), which are sold in organic shops and pharmacies abroad and in Greece, are homeopathic, biodynamic and anthroposophical. [24] "Weleda makes a wide range of anthroposophical medicines, as well as herbal and homeopathic prescriptions and body care products, all in accordance with Steiner's Principles."^[25] "At Weleda, we grow our ingredients biodynamically," and "many Weleda medicines are anthroposophical."^[26]

5. "Energy" products and systems



All this philosophy, "the other ecology," is becoming the inspiration for many preparations, products and systems that claim to bring about a better quality of life, improved health, agriculture, animal husbandry and treatment of people, animals, plants and the whole planet. A typical example is the '**Plocher energy system**,' 'ecological preparations that attract favourable energies for crops and products.' The system is advertised as 'a complete range of products for plant protection, soil improvement, natural fertilization, immune system strengthening and natural antibiotics.' Their website informs us that Plocher's "energy" products address environmental problems in a **holistic**

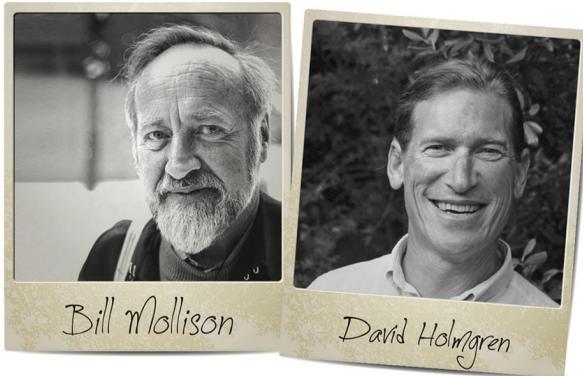
way, addressing the causes rather than the symptoms." What does this mean? The explanation follows: the Plocher energy device uses "cosmic energy, which is known...as ether, orgone, prana, chi... **With Plocher's device, cosmic energy is concentrated and used to replicate the properties of one or more substances in other substances.** It works like a photocopier, where the concentrated cosmic energy replaces the laser beam's energy... The "photocopies," which have the characteristics of the copied substances, are the final products, the so-called "carrier materials," sold by our Company. These materials, when processed by the Plocher device... act as accumulators and transmitters of the concentrated cosmic energy (and) emit the copied characteristics into the environment."^[27] This process, which follows the "accumulation of energy from space," is called "information transmission." How scientific is all this? In this mode of operation^[28], the system is applied to the home, garden, farm, "plants, soil, ecological agriculture, livestock farms, for biological purification, for cleaning polluted ponds, drinking water treatment, etc."^[29].

6. Towards an ecology of the future

The "New Age" movement is gradually taking over, permeating and altering all scientific disciplines. This has given rise to 'the new medicine,' 'the new education,' 'the new physics,' 'the new psychology,' 'the new biology,' and 'the new ecology.' We have acquired, they say, a 'holistic understanding' of science, of man, of the environment, and this is nothing other than the neo-pagan view that perverts everything good and everything scientific. The future ecology includes new philosophical structures and proposals for life: among them, **deep ecology, permaculture ('permanent cultivation'),** and **ecopsychology** are prominent.

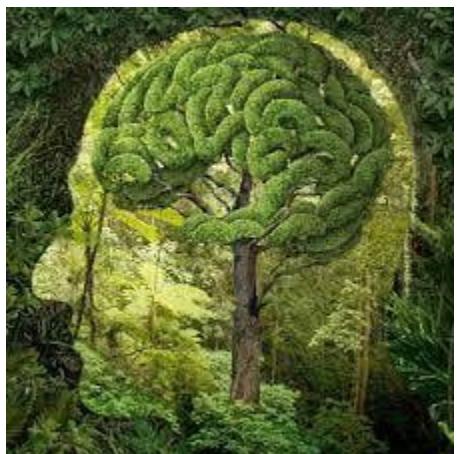


Deep ecology, conceived by the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess, was first presented in 1972 at a conference on the future of the third world, where Naess reviewed the ecological movement but with a "new ethic."^[30] Rooted in **Buddhism and Taoism**, deep ecology emphasizes the value of every non-human creature, ecosystem and process of nature. It considers humans to be "mere members of the bio-community" with the same value as animals, plants, etc.^[31] Naess laid the foundations of a movement based on **ecocentrism** and the need for "self-actualization" through identification with the ecosphere^[32].



Permaculture ("permanent farming and culture") was started in the 1970s by Australians Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. The word permaculture is an abbreviation of the English words 'permanent agriculture' and 'permanent culture.' It is a 'holistic' system of food production, land use and community planning with clear philosophical and religious implications. The original concept

of permaculture incorporated elements of Fukuoka's natural agriculture and then expanded so that agriculture is now only a small part of it[33]. Permaculture is a **holistic approach with mystical implications** that applies to all areas of life: it incorporates, among many others, biodynamic agriculture, ecovillages, holistic "medicine," yoga and other related practices, anthroposophical education, etc. [34] Today, there are 4000 permaculture projects around the world and many interested people visit the jungles of Hawaii, where they are trained by experts who try to "heal" the planet by following the path of union with nature through yoga, tai chi and mystical processes.[35] Students can continue their training at the International Permaculture Institute in Australia.



Ecopsychology, a synthesis of ecology, psychology, and Eastern religiosity, emphasizes the "path of spiritual growth."^[36] Ecopsychology has its roots in **Buddhist psychology and various mystical traditions**.^[37] It "draws on traditional healing techniques of primitive people, nature mysticism ... and the principles of deep ecology"^[38] and makes use of primitive techniques and rituals "to create an alternative supportive framework for healing."^[39] It is a new branch of ecology that emerged in the mid-20th century and a new branch of psychology that

proposes new psychological theories and "approaches theoretical views and practical applications ... religious, ritualistic and shamanistic"^[40] "using techniques borrowed from the hitherto heretical mysticism of science."^[41] It is also a new branch of psychology that proposes new psychological theories and "approaches theoretical views and practical applications ... religious, ritualistic and shamanistic"^[42] "using techniques

borrowed from the hitherto heretical mysticism of science"[43]. Ecopsychologists apply so-called "**ecotherapy**"[42], which aims, in a Buddhist-oriented way, to abolish the existence of a separate self and, using nature as a therapeutic tool, to bring about - supposedly - the healing of the afflicted modern human being. Its basic doctrine is that the Earth is a "collective entity" of which man is a part, who cannot be considered as a separate being nor as superior to nature. The well-known neo-Pagan thesis that "everything is one" is the basis of the whole "new ecology," and to be cured, man must first of all "deepen his relationship with the natural world."

From all this, one easily comes to **ecopaganism** - the coupling of ecology and paganism - since, in most pagan traditions, nature is reverently exalted and ecological activism is often seen as a religious duty.

7. New structures

In recent years, a new way of organizing social life has emerged: **ecovillages and alternative communities**. Theories of permaculture and deep ecology have provided the model for many of the eco-communities, which now operate in organized networks. Eco-communities are usually places where ecological living is linked to Eastern religious beliefs and related occult practices.

A small example from Greece is the **alternative community Peliti**, which started in 1995 as a civil non-profit company and is today "one of the most important non-governmental organizations in Greece" with objectives "to collect, preserve and disseminate local varieties, to exchange goods and services without the mediation of money and to create an alternative community." [43] "The Peliti alternative community has created a nationwide network of more than 100 farms where traditional varieties are grown, preserved and exchanged." [44] The crops are conventional and traditional but also "**homeodynamic**" and "**natural**" (Fukuoka method). [45] Too many members of the Peliti community advertise that they give **reiki**. Other members practice and promote other alternative/apocryphal "therapies" such as reflexology, shiatsu, acupuncture, yoga, dance therapy and "holistic" pedagogy. In their last Panhellenic celebration - in 2007 - a guest speaker from abroad introduced the **permaculture** approach for the first time in Greece.

A second example from abroad is the **Findhorn** community in Scotland, founded by the medium Ellen Caddy[46]. There, "nature spirits give instructions for growing vegetables," and ecology marries ecology with **spiritualism**.



8. Conclusion

Ecology is sound when it is really ecology and not a vehicle for heresy. Ecology is sound when it does not put itself above God and does not transcend our relationship with Him. Ecology is sound when it is true ecology. And true ecology never exists apart from the love of God. Otherwise, it is either hypocrisy or illusion. Love in God leads us to the humility that brings love for people, wise use of goods, and respect for the environment. And then our hearts are not just concerned about the environment. It truly "burns for all creation."

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